

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒) Release () Excise () Deny
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Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 3, 1978

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Dear Harold:

I refer to our earlier correspondence on Argentina and specifically to my letter of May 1 suggesting that a team of State Department and United States military officials visit Argentina in connection with problems caused by human rights abuses in that country.

On May 24 and 25 Under Secretary David Newsom visited Buenos Aires accompanied, as you know, by Major General Surut and Rear Admiral Schuller.

Dave recommended that, if, as promised, the Argentine Government invites the Inter-American Human Rights Commission to visit Argentina, and no significant abuses occur in the interim, after Congressional consultations we then would expect to resume the providing of military training. We have approved this recommendation and it has now been conveyed to President Videla. We have also told President Videla that we will consider what other steps we might be able to take on the basis of further advances in the human rights field in Argentina.

It was clear from Dave's visit that the Government of Argentina did not feel itself in a position to make any firm commitments either in the area of accounting for disappeared persons or in releasing detainees. Our response therefore must at this time be minimal. We hope however that it will be enough to induce the Argentine authorities to take further steps.

The Honorable
Harold Brown,
Secretary of Defense.

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copy to
Mr Rowland
ARA/SCA
with
my
comment
for file
with
Argentina

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We agree with you on the importance of maintaining a satisfactory relationship with Argentina and hope that human rights improvements will follow which will ultimately permit a normal condition in that relationship. I appreciate very much your cooperation in sending two senior military officers along with Dave.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

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